

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-20 ACDA-12 HA-05 /118 W
-----020276 221508Z /50

R 221345Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC1448
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

UNCLAS PRETORIA 3503

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDEV, PINT, RH
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: PARLIAMENT OPENS AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IS
CRITICIZED.

1. ON JUNE 20 THE RHODESIAN PARLIAMENT OPENED WITH THE BLACK
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (EC) MEMBERS AND MINISTERS CONSTITUTIONALLY
PART OF THE RHODESIAN FRONT GOVERNMENT. PRESIDENT WRATHALL
ADDRESSED THE OPENING BUT SAID VERY LITTLE OF SUBSTANCE RELATING TO
PROPOSED CHANGES. THE MEDIA HAS BEEN HOPEFUL THAT HE WOULD
ANNOUNCE CERTAIN CHANGES, PARTICULARLY IN THE FIELD OF RACE
DISCRIMINATION. THE UANC HAD ISSUED A STATEMENT THE NIGHT PREVIOUS
ASKING FOR ABOLITION OF RACIAL LAWS, ANNOUNCEMENT OF
REGISTRATION AND ELECTION DATES, SPEED UP OF THE RELEASE OF
POLITICAL PRISONERS, DISMANTLING OF PROTECTED VILLAGES, AND
A RHODESIAN TROOP WITHDRAWAL FROM THE TRIBAL TRUST LANDS IN
RESPECT OF THE CEASEFIRE CALL.

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2. PRESS ACCOUNTS STATE THAT THE FIRST TWO DAYS OF THE SESSION,
WHICH WILL LAST TWO WEEKS, HAS DRAWN CONSIDERABLE CRITICISM
OF THE EC. EXPECTEDLY, OPPOSITION PARTY SPOKESPERSONS (THERE ARE
NO OPPOSITION SEATS IN THE ASSEMBLY) HAVE CRITICIZED THE
"MEANINGLESSNESS" OF THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH. MORE SURPRISINGLY,
SEVERAL RHODESIAN FRONT BACKBENCHERS HAVE POINTEDLY CRITICIZED

THE LACK OF ACTION BY THE EC. ONE MP, BRIAN STRINGER, IS
QUOTED AS URGING THE EC TO "GET OFF ITS COLLECTIVE POSTERIOR AND
BE SEEN TO BE IMPLEMENTING THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT." RF
WHIP, DENNIS DIVARIS, SAID " WE WANT MORE ACTION AND LESS WORDS."
STRINGER SAID THE RETENTION OF DISCRIMINATION WAS SEEN BY
THE OUTSIDE WORLD AS THE RETENTION OF WHITE PRIVILEGE AND MUST
BE DONE AWAY WITH. ALSO ADDING THEIR VOICES TO THE CRITICS WERE
THIRTEEN OF THE FIFTEEN BLACK MP'S WHO SUPPORTED IN A STATEMENT AN
" ALL PARTY TALK" IN ORDER TO SAVE LIVES AND SECURE INTERNATIONAL
RECOGNITION.
EDMONDSON

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NNN

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